

# DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

Appoquinimink Board Room  
Marion E. Proffitt Training Center  
Odessa, DE  
September 20, 2018  
5:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Nina Lou Bunting, Candice Fifer, Vincent Lofink, Dr. Audrey Noble, Wali Rushdan II, Whitney Sweeney

**Members Absent:** Dr. Terry Whittaker

**Others Present:** Dr. Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education and State Board of Education (SBE) Executive Secretary; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Valerie Dunkle, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Rick Lane, PSB/SBE Administrative Assistant; Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, representing the DOE; Chuck Longfellow, DOE; Luke Rhine, DOE; Deb Stevens, DSEA; Dianna Frank, College Board; Tammy Croce, DASA; Kendall Massett, DCSN; Nancy Hetterly; Michelle Bennett; Allison Magagnose; Denis Cruz de Oliveira

### I. Opening

**A. Call to Order:** Whitney Sweeney called the meeting to Order at 5:02 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Rick Lane conducted roll call for the meeting with 5 members present (Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney; Ms. Bunting arrived late).

**C. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Wali Rushdan II and seconded by Vincent Lofink to approve the September 20, 2018 agenda. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No's – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

**D. Approval of Minutes for August 16, 2018**

A motion was made by Vincent Lofink and seconded by Audrey Noble to approve the August 16, 2018 minutes as amended to more explicitly outline changes made to July minutes to reflect the nomination and approval of Audrey Noble as Board Vice President and correct Wali Rushdan IV to Wali Rushdan II. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No's – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

### II. State Board Business

**A. Committee Reports**

**1. Committee Reports**

Board members provided updates on recent committee participation.

## 2. Committee Participation

The Board discussed proposed committee participation by SBE members. SBE members assented to the following roles: Whitney Sweeney will serve on the P-20 Council and University of Delaware Board of Trustees, Wali Rushdan II will serve on the Equalization Committee, Dr. Audrey Noble will serve on the DPAS II Advisory Committee and the Charter School Accountability Committee, Nina Lou Bunting will serve on the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee and the Teachers' Advisory Committee, and Vincent Lofink will serve on the Delaware School Boards Association Board of Directors.

### B. Executive Director's Report

Jenna Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office.

### C. Selection of Voting Delegate for NASBE Conference

A motion to approve Dr. Audrey Noble as the Voting Delegate for the NASBE Conference was made by Audrey Noble and seconded by Candice Fifer. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

### D. Discussion of Appointment of Student Representative for SBE

A motion to approve the creation of a subcommittee with representatives from the State Board, the Department of Education, the Governor's Office, the Delaware State Education Association, and the Delaware Association of School Administrators to determine the process for selecting a student representative to the SBE was made by Vincent Lofink and seconded by Wali Rushdan II. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

A motion to approve Vincent Lofink as the SBE representative on the subcommittee was made by Wali Rushdan II and seconded by Nina Lou Bunting. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

## II. Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion

Dr. Bunting provided her monthly report highlighting the Department's work and visits within the past month.

## IV. Presentations

Luke Rhine from the Department of Education gave a presentation on Career Pathways and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

## V. Department of Education Regulations

### A. Regulations for Discussion and Action

1. Regulation 1008 – DIAA Junior High School and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics (for Discussion)
2. Regulation 1009 – DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics (for Discussion)

B. Public Comment on Regulations

None

VI. **Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA) Update**

None

VII. **Charter School Update**

Emily Cunningham provided an update on Delaware charter schools.

1. Delaware Design-Lab High School – Minor Application (Name Change to Design Thinking Academy)
2. Charter Renewal Timeline

VIII. **Professional Standards Board (PSB)**

None

IX. **Formal Public Comment**

Kendall Massett gave public comment regarding the Delaware Charter School Network.

X. **Appeals and Reviews**

A motion to move to executive session for discussion of confidential information was made by Vincent Lofink and seconded by Nina Lou Bunting. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The Board discussed the Student v. Christina School District appeal. Valerie Dunkle, Deputy Attorney General, provided the Board with updates on student appeals.

A motion to return to public session was made by Vincent Lofink and seconded by Nina Lou Bunting. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

A motion to affirm the disciplinary action in Student v. Christina School District was made by Vincent Lofink and seconded by Nina Lou Bunting. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

A motion to include language in the order recommending that future decisions of the Christina School Board explicitly state the basis for the specific length of expulsion was made by Wali Rushdan II and seconded by Vincent Lofink. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

A motion to use electronic signatures on the order was made by Wali Rushdan II and seconded by Vince Lofink. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No's – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

XI. **Board Training**

Valerie Dunkle provided training for Board members on FOIA, ethics and the code of conduct.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

*Due to technical difficulties, digital recordings of the meeting will not be available in the “audio recordings” section of the State Board of Education’s website.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.  
Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education

DRAFT